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SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1A

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Honduras

SUBJECT Port Information: Puerto Cortes

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PLACE ACQUIRED
(BY SOURCE)DATE ACQUIRED
(BY SOURCE)

DATE (OF INFO.)

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1. The information contained herein is based on personal observations of source during

2. Pilotage No pilots are available.

3. Formalities This is a "first port of entry" for overseas vessels; customs, health and other officers boarded vessel at the dock.

4. Features encountered in reaching berth The port's only dock was reached by steering 070 degrees true from seaward, heading directly toward its center with depth of water 35 feet. No discrepancies were noted between critical features shown on HO Chart 1572 and same features as observed.

5. Bridges No bridges were passed under in reaching berth.

6. Overhead cables No overhead cables were passed under in reaching berth.

7. Tugs No tugs were used to assist source's vessel in entering port and no tugs were observed assisting other vessels.

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8. Anchorage [] south of dock in good sand - mud holding ground. Reliability of anchorage bearings in Sailing Directions was good, and source describes features of shelter as good in any weather up to wind force seven from West to West South-West.

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9. Moorings [] at the port's dock which is 800 feet long with depth 23 feet alongside and 35 feet offshore.

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10. Lighterage No lighters were used by source's vessel and none were observed in port.
11. Wet Basins This port has no wet basin.
12. Winds and Currents An unfavorable West - South-West wind is encountered in leaving the port, but was not observed to be too serious.
13. Berthing and Turning Adequate turning area is located off the dock up to a distance of $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles.
14. Utilities Drinking water of potable quality in generally adequate supply required two oz HTH per 50 tons and was delivered by pipe at rate of 2700 gallons per hour through a $2\frac{1}{2}$ inch connection. Boiler water of good quality in generally adequate supply was delivered by pipe at rate of 2700 gallons per hour. Electricity (ac) of 110 - 220 volts, 60 cycles, and three phase was available. No steam was available at the berth.
15. Fuel Fuel oil in generally adequate supply was delivered by pipe at rate of 21 thousand gallons per hour through six inch connection. Diesel oil, also in generally adequate supply, was delivered by pipe through four inch connection. No bunker coal was available.
16. Supplies Engineering and deck supplies were not available, and the quality of provisions, if available, is poor.
17. Communications Telephone, telegraph and radio are available.
18. Clearance facilities Railroad facilities link the port with Tela, San Pedro Sula, La Lima and nearby banana plantations. On the apron are located four open tracks of 500 feet in length, with five feet distance between wharf edge and closest track. Double track is located from the wharf shed to land at each end of the wharf. There is no truck accessary by road onto the wharf, apron, or into shed. San Pedro Sula and La Lima are two main inland points accessible by road.
- 25X1 19. Repairs [redacted] repaired in this port but a small railroad machine shop is available for satisfactory work in an emergency situation only.
20. Wharf Main wharf located on the north shore of bay is divided into two berths: Outer (west) and Inner (east) both on south side which is only side used by ships. Wharf is constructed of concrete, steel, and galvanized iron; total length 970 feet, depth alongside of 27 feet or 28 feet except at extreme west end. Extreme southwest corner of wharf is under water. Apron width of wharf is 20 feet. Railroad cranes are available, and stevedore gangs of various sizes and fair efficiency are available day and night. Transfer shed's floor area is approximately 600 x 40 feet with three tracks in the shed and one on apron. This wharf, however, is slowly sinking and a new one is planned to replace it with construction to begin this year.
- 25X1 21. Medical Crew members [redacted] medical facilities ashore which were poor. Other fair medical facilities are available at Tela about 65 miles away, connected to Puerto Cortes by railroad and air service.
22. Health and Sanitation Raw sewage is dumped into the harbor, and health and sanitation conditions in the town were observed to be poor.

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